Post-matric scholarship

*12. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the year in which the scholarship amount under the post matric scholarship scheme was revised;

(b) if not revised in the last couple of years, whether Government has taken any initiative to revise the scholarship amount taking into account the cost of living; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing two post-matric scholarship schemes — one for Scheduled Caste students and the other for students belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBCs). Scholarship rates under the Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship for SC students were last revised *w.e.f.* 1.4.2003.

After introduction of the Scheme of Post-matric Scholarship for OBC students during 1998-99, it has not been revised so far.

(b) and (c) Revision of scholarship rates, income ceiling and other norms under the two schemes is under consideration

Indian land claimed by Bangladesh

*13. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bangladesh has laid claim to 30,000 acres of Indian land which have surfaced on the border as a result of river movements;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures Government is taking/proposes to take to demarcate this newly surfaced land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) No, Sir. The Government has not received any claim from the Government of Bangladesh over 30,000 acres of Indian land, which is alleged to have surfaced on the border as a result of river movement.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Indo-German Science Express

*14. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:
SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of Indo-German Science Express; and

(b) in what manner the said express is helping in bringing back students to take up science stream which otherwise is falling back when compared to computer sciences?